GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:645
ANSWERED ON:10.05.2002
IMPORT OF STEEL SCRAP
SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV (PATIL)

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned `Unexploded rocket arrives in melting steel scrap`, appearing in the Hindu, Delhi, dated the April 3, 2002;

(b) if so, the details and facts of the matter reported therein; and

(c) the precautionary measures taken by the Government to avoid such incidents in future while importing steel scrap from foreign countries?

Answer

MINISTER OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN)

(a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) TO (c) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 645 TO BE ANSWERED ON 10.5.2002 REGARDING IMPORT OF STEEL SCRAP

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In the morning of 2 April, 2002, at the time of unloading of a consignment of 10 containers containing Heavy Melting Steel Scrap at ICD, Tughlakabad an explosion took place. As a result, the driver and the conductor of the truck who were present nearby and engaged in loading were injured. They were given immediate medical treatment in a nearby hospital. The entire consignment, which was shipped from Sharjah and originated from an African country, was immediately detained and destuffed. Further examination of the goods took place in the following days in the presence of explosive experts, local police, officials of Central Industrial Security Force (CISF), Container Corporation (CONCOR) and Customs Officers. The total weight of scrap was 212 MT (Net). On examination, the piece that had exploded was found to be part of an unexploded heat rocket of 1969 vintage. The remnants were taken over by explosive experts for further examination. The police authorities completed their investigation and later allowed clearance of the consignment with the advice that it may be handled carefully. M/s Words Window, New Delhi, were the importer in this case. They had sold the goods to M/s Rathi Ispat of Ghaziabad on high sea sale basis. M/s. Rathi Ispat of Ghaziabad is a regular importer of Heavy Melting Steel Scrap at ICD, Tughlakabad.

(c) As a precautionary measure to deal with such scrap, a separate area away from normal examination area has now been earmarked for examination of heavy metal steel scrap by the CONCOR. In suspected cases, the scrap would be subject to examination by Police/explosive experts and only after their clearance, the same would be examined by the Customs.